

An Analysis of Sexual Abuse of Women In India : A Social Crime Study

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ABSTRACT

The study was fundamentally exploratory, as its title suggests, focussing exclusively on the themes discussed without the intention of offering definitive solutions to existing issues. Exploratory research aims to clarify the nature of the issue and does not seek to produce conclusive proof; instead, it enhances our understanding of the situation. The examination employed a non-probability testing method, notably utilising convenience sampling to gather data. The data was gathered with the overview method via an online survey administered through the 'Google Doc research tool'. Approximately one hundred (100) women from urban locations, including Delhi, Mumbai, and Pune, participated in the study. The news media, encompassing print, electronic, and internet formats, has been recognised as a principal contributor to the cultivation of vulnerabilities and anxieties, rather than aiding individuals in managing these sentiments of unease. Thus, it is inferred from the hypothesis that the persistent reporting of crimes against women increases the vulnerability and danger faced by metropolitan women.

Keywords : Sexual Abuse, Crime, Women, Violence

INTRODUCTION

Despite residing in the 21st century, social vindictiveness and acts of neglect remain prevalent, echoing historical patterns. "One such social atrocity is violence against women. It is an established fact that we inhabit a vengeful world, and despite the advancements and modernization of women in the West and urban areas inside our country, women globally continue to encounter societal violence, oppression, and limited opportunities in the public sphere. (Das et. al 2021). The status of women in India has seen significant transformations during the past few centuries. The history of women in India has been remarkable, spanning from their status in ancient times through the constraints of the medieval era to the progress of equal rights

championed by various reformers (Malamuth et. al (1981). Women in India continue to endure atrocities such as rape, acid attacks, dowry deaths, and the forced prostitution of young girls, among others. A global poll conducted by Thomson Reuters identifies India as the "fourth most dangerous country" in the world for women and the most perilous among G20 nations. The Supreme Court expressed concern regarding the escalating incidents of violations against women, acknowledging that women are not safe and are even vulnerable to assault while traveling on buses. "Reports of sexual crimes have surged by nearly 30 percent following the gang rape case." The Hard News product consequently embodies viciousness, which is perceived fundamentally as a core value of hard news. In today's globalized world, data, such as news, is highly commoditized, exceeding the boundaries established in the first part of the last century. (Leveson inquiry 2012). The news industry is rapidly influenced by fundamental news values, such as the nature, origin, and severity of violence, albeit not exclusively limited to these factors. Consequently, the journalistic code of ethics and the media's responsibility towards societies are increasingly perceived as precarious and antiquated constructs by countless media professionals. (Humphries 2009). This leads us to the central focus of the paper, which is crime news reporting and its influence on metropolitan women".

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Indian Perspective:

"According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) wrongdoing against ladies report 2011, "A sum of 2,28,650 episodes of wrongdoing against ladies (both under IPC and SLL) were accounted for in the nation amid the year 2011 when contrasted with 2,13,585 frequencies in the year 2010 chronicle an expansion of 7.1% amid the year 2011. The Crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)":

- (I) "Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)"
- (II) Kidnapping and Abduction for indicated purposes (Sec. 363 - 373 IPC)
- (III) Homicide for Dowry, Dowry Deaths or their endeavors (Sec. 302/304-B IPC) (IV) Torture - both mental and physical (Sec. 498-An IPC)
- (V) Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC)
- (VI) Sexual Harassment (Eve Teasing) (Sec. 509 IPC)
- (VII) Importation of young ladies (up to 21 years old) (Sec. 366-B)

"In December 2011, a NAVTEQ and TNS Market Research study revealed that more than fifty percent of women residing in the capital fear for their safety in public spaces. The investigation revealed that 51% of Indian women surveyed feel unsafe on Indian streets, while an alarming 73% expressed concerns for their physical safety when traveling at night. To ascertain their path in unfamiliar locations, many women choose to get directions from friends and family before to embarking on their journey, while a similar number will solicit guidance from strangers in an effort to mitigate the fear of becoming lost. This percentage is rather encouraging, since a 2010 report by the Delhi government's Department of Women and Child Development, Jagori, a non-governmental organization, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) estimated it to be closer to four out of five women".

"The Baseline Survey report, entitled "Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls Initiative," a collaborative effort by Jagori, the Department of Women and Child Development of the Government of Delhi, UNIFEM South Asia Regional Office, and UN-Habitat, Nairobi, indicates that women across all socioeconomic strata must contend with provocation as a significant element of their daily existence. Students aged 15-19 and female workers in informal sectors are particularly vulnerable. Badgering occurs both day and night in various

open environments, whether isolated or crowded. Public transportation, transit systems, and roadways are recognized as areas where women and girls experience significant levels of sexual harassment” (Bruce Sacerdote 1996).

“Data from the National Crime Records Bureau's Crime in India 2012 report illustrated on a chart to highlight which Indian urban areas exhibit the highest incidence of reported crimes against women. Chennai is the safest among India's large urban populations. Delhi, often regarded as a perilous city for women in India, ranks 16th when the female population is taken into account”.

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF STUDY

“The fundamental targets of research depended on two parameters. Initially, to examine the impact of wrongdoing against ladies news stories on urban ladies”.

“Furthermore, to break down the wrongdoing news utilization propensities in urban ladies in India .As far as the extension, the examination approach was exploratory in nature”.

Objectives:

- 1) “To understand the status of Indian women’s social abuse and the level of crime involved”.
- 2) “To examine the role of various factors which play crucial role in increasing rate of sexual abuse against female”.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research strategies encompass all methods and procedures employed for conducting research. In this manner, examine the methodologies or strategies that the research employs for conducting the investigation tasks. Moreover, examining philosophy serves as a systematic approach to addressing the issue. This is an examination of the methodology employed in experimental research. The exploration substantiates him/her via the several methodologies generally employed to investigate the research problem, together with the underlying justification for these approaches.

The research methods in sociology can be categorized into two basic components: quantitative and qualitative procedures. This paper employed a quantitative exploration technique. The quantitative research strategy refers to the systematic experimental “investigation of social phenomena by statistical, scientific, or numerical data or computing methods. Aliaga and Gunderson (2000) state that "quantitative research is the clarification of inquiries through the collection of numerical data that is analyzed using scientifically grounded methods, specifically statistics."

In contrast “The qualitative research technique, as defined by Denzin and Lincoln (1994), is regarded by many as a valid contribution to subjective research philosophy. They define subjective research as centrally multi-method, incorporating an interpretive and naturalistic approach to its subject matter. It encompasses the deliberate use and collection of various empirical materials—case studies, personal experiences, reflections, biographies, interviews, observational, historical, interactional, and visual texts—that illustrate significant and perilous moments and their implications on individuals' lives. Denzin and Lincoln (1994)”.

“A non-random examination approach was adopted. Nonprobability sampling is a common method in qualitative research when researchers employ their judgment to select a sample. Unlike likelihood testing,

where each participant has an equal probability of selection, individuals selected by nonprobability sampling are chosen based on predetermined criteria. A subset of conventional nonprobability sampling methods includes convenience sampling, snowball sampling, and purposive sampling”.

“This sampling strategy involves assembling examples in a manner that does not provide every individual in the population with equal chances of selection. Furthermore, in Non-Probability Sampling, convenience sampling was employed. The cases for comfort testing were selected according to their accessibility to the analyst. Subjects are selected mostly due to their ease of recruitment”.

A data review technique was employed to collect information and combine data. The studies can be significantly guided by utilizing two prominent tools: “the questionnaire and the interview. Nonetheless, this investigation employed the instrument of an online survey. Oxford defines a questionnaire as “A collection of printed or written questions with a range of answers, devised for the purposes of research or statistical analysis.”

Convenience sampling:

The online survey was created using 'Google Forms' and disseminated by the analyst through social media platforms Facebook and LinkedIn, as well as by email to the responders. One hundred forty-three women over the age of 18 from metropolitan areas responded to the survey.

FINDINGS

“The findings on a specific rate and diagrams were generated by the 'Google Docs online review tool' and have been incorporated into the article. The subsequent findings of the examination” are as follows:

Age of respondents:

“53% of the respondents were between the ages of 18-30 Years”.
“44% of the respondents were between the ages of 30-50 years”.
“2% of the respondents were over 50 years”.

Monthly wage of respondents:

23% of the respondents earned beneath 25,000 INR.
26% of the respondents earned between 25-50,000 INR.
14% of the respondents earned between 50-1, 00,000 INR.
5% of the respondents earned over 1 lakh INR”.
28% of the respondents were subject to the family pay.

5.3) Media Consumption propensities for respondents:

“98 % of the respondent read wrongdoing against ladies stories in daily papers while just”
“2 % didn't read the daily paper”.
“79 % of the respondent watched wrongdoing against ladies news stories on TV, while”
“19 % didn't watch”.
“53 % of the respondent got to wrongdoing against ladies news stories on the Internet, while”

47% did not access the Internet. 45.2% of respondents encountered stories of misconduct against women daily, while 38.1% did so frequently, and 16.7% occasionally encountered such news articles.

5.4) Fifty-six percent of respondents experienced feelings of unease after viewing news related to crimes against women, twenty-one percent felt afraid, and eight percent became more aware after watching or reading articles about crimes against women.

5.5) In light of the inquiry of whether the respondents ever utilize self-protection gear after observing or reading stories about crimes against women, the following was the response:

"51.9 % purchased pepper splash".
"33 % purchased folding knife".
"11% purchased stew powder".
"3.7 % purchased some other self-protection hardware".

"Following were the sources, which gave the respondents the feeling that wrongdoing against ladies has ascended in your general public":

"77 % picked News stories on TV/radio/daily papers/on the web".
"11.9 % settled on verbal/data from other individuals".
"4.8% decided on relatives' and additionally companions' encounters".
"4.8% decided on individual encounters".

"51 % of the respondents felt a bit risky strolling alone in dull in the wake of watching the news on the Reports of misconduct against women indicate that 38.1% felt exceedingly unsafe, 9.5% felt genuinely secure", and no respondents reported feeling excellently protected.

5.10) Forty-four percent of respondents expressed actual concern regarding the possibility of physical assault by strangers following exposure to news about crimes against women, whereas 35.7% reported minimal concern and 19% indicated extreme distress.

5.11) Sixty-three percent expressed serious concern about becoming victims of crime after reading these news items, followed by only nineteen percent who were very concerned, sixteen point seven percent who were somewhat concerned, and seven percent who were not particularly concerned.

"Factor Responsible for Sexual abuse as a social crime in India":-

KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.	.474
Bartlett's Test of Approx. Chi-Square	221.092
Sphericity	
df	10
Sig.	.000

"Results: KMO and Bartlett's test shows that sample adequacy is adequate and reliable to carry out the research. (.000) is less than .05 alpha value which gives evidence for suitability".

Communalities

	Initial	Extraction
“Society is not encouraging the legal battle to go for	1.000	.665
Legal procedure is very complex to follow	1.000	.731
Local police is not efficient in handling the big crimes	1.000	.577
The cost and efforts deter me from filling case against crime	1.000	.828
Accused influences the case Investigation”	1.000	.772

“Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis”.

“Results: The major factors were the cost and efforts deter from legal fight against and accused influence the case investigation”.

Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	1.374	27.475	27.475	1.374	27.475	27.475	1.269	25.385	25.385
2	1.188	23.752	51.227	1.188	23.752	51.227	1.153	23.060	48.444
3	1.011	20.221	71.447	1.011	20.221	71.447	1.150	23.003	71.447
4	.788	15.767	87.214						
5	.639	12.786	100.000						

“Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis”.

“Results: There are three major factors which comprise the highest loading on the factors almost 71%”.



“Results: The three major factors have highest Eigen value above 1 which shows greater correlation for the factors association”.

Component Matrix^a

	Component		
	1	2	3
“Society is not encouraging the legal battle to go for	.581	.153	.551
Legal procedure is very complex to follow	.720	-.164	-.431
Local police is not efficient in handling the big crimes	-.636	.312	-.274
The cost and efforts deter me from filling case against crime	-.337	-.628	.566
Accused influences the case	.020	.804	.355
Investigation”			

“Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

a. 3 components extracted”.

“Rotated Component Matrix”

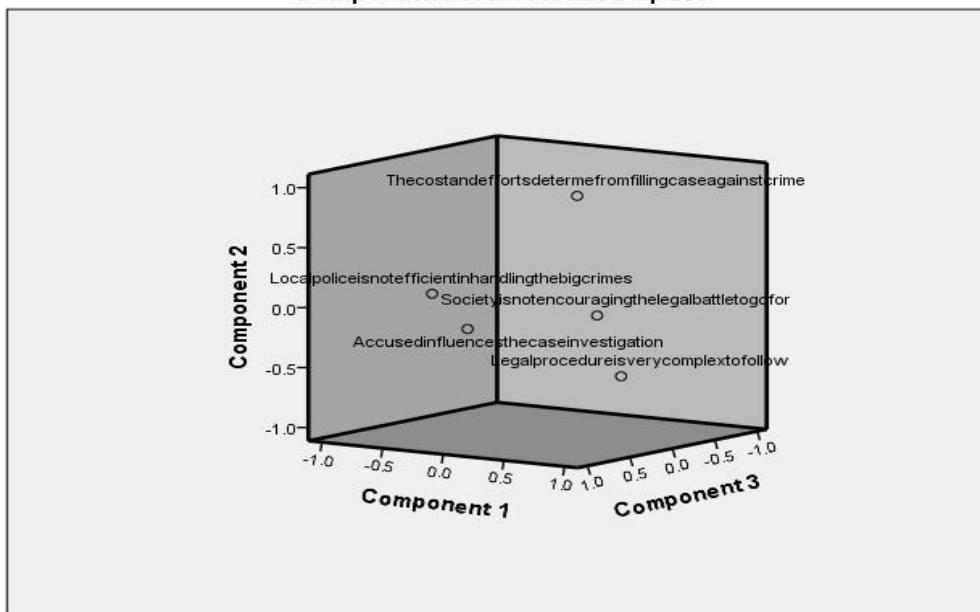
	Component		
	1	2	3
“Society is not encouraging the legal battle to go for	.736	.011	.351
Legal procedure is very complex to follow	.410	-.637	-.397
Local police is not efficient in handling the big crimes	-.734	.021	.193
The cost and efforts deter me from filling case against crime	.141	.859	-.265
Accused influences the case investigation”	.035	-.097	.873

“Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization”.
a. “Rotation converged in 6 iterations”.

“Component Transformation Matrix”

Component	1	2	3
I.	.831	-.551	-.072
II.	-.205	-.425	.882
III.	.516	.718	.466

“Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization”.

Component Plot in Rotated Space

“So the above results shows that the legal procedure, cost and less social support deter the process of legal battle against sex abuse against women in India”.

INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The purpose of the data analysis and interpretation phase is to convert the collected information into credible evidence regarding the intervention's progress and effectiveness. One of the most critical challenges in interpreting study findings pertains to the relationship between the outcomes and the intervention being evaluated. This encompasses distinguishing between affiliation and causation, as well as the role of confounding circumstances in distorting the evidence. The main objective of information analysis and interpretation is to obtain actionable and valuable data.

Considering the aforementioned observations, it is noted that respondents aged 18-30, earning up to Rs. 50,000, who consume news about crimes against women through newspapers, television, or the internet, "experience insecurity and carry safety devices for their protection while walking alone in the dark. They harbor fears of potential physical assault by strangers and perceive a heightened risk of encountering such crimes on a daily basis. The impact of news reports regarding crimes against women affects around 70% of urban working women aged 18 to 30, with an income of up to Rs. 50,000.

An association exists when the occurrence of one event is likely contingent upon the occurrence of another event. Regardless, although the two events may be interconnected, one does not necessarily precipitate the other; the second event can occur independently of the first. Thirty-six The study revealed that continuous exposure to crime news influences respondents' emotions and instigates fear and insecurity in their minds. One can similarly identify the correlation between reports of crimes against women, the instigation of fear and insecurities, and the resultant actions such as acquiring self-defense equipment like pepper spray, paper cutters, or chili powder. The findings revealed that a primary concern among the majority of respondents was the potential for experiencing violence similar to that depicted in news articles. Moreover, it was discovered that the news media, whether print, electronic, or online, serves more as a source of instigating instability and dread rather than assisting respondents in managing such sentiments of apprehension".

CONCLUSION

The examination was inherently exploratory, as indicated by its designation, aiming solely to study the topics addressed and not intending to provide definitive and conclusive solutions to current problems. "Conducted with the objective of elucidating the nature of the issue, exploratory research is not intended to provide conclusive evidence, but rather aids in enhancing our understanding of the situation. The examination utilized a Non-Probability testing technique, specifically opting for convenience sampling to obtain information. The information was collected using the overview technique through an online survey conducted with the 'Google Doc research tool'. Approximately forty-three (100) women from urban areas such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Pune responded to the survey. The news media, whether print, electronic, or online, has been identified as a primary source of fostering vulnerabilities and concerns, rather than assisting individuals in coping with these feelings of apprehension. Consequently, based on the hypothesis, it is deduced that the continuous coverage of crimes against women renders urban women more vulnerable and at risk".

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